

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 119664 TOSEC 010211

42

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ( ISO ) R

DRAFTED BY S:LSEAGLEBURGER:ML  
APPROVED BY S - MR. EAGLEBURGER  
S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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O 221631Z MAY 75 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 119664 TOSEC 010211

NODIS  
CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)  
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH KRAFT

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EAGLEBURGER

1. I HAVE JUST HAD A MOST DISTURBING CONVERSATION WITH JOE KRAFT WHICH I THINK YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT.
2. I CALLED HIM TODAY TO COMPLAIN ABOUT HIS MOST RECENT ARTICLE, WHICH AGAIN REFERS TO THE B-52'S AND, WITHOUT NAMING YOU, SAYS THAT IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF THE WISDOM OF SCHLESINGER AND THE MILITARY THAT THE BOMBERS WERE NOT USED DURING THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR. I SAID TO JOE THAT I HAD THOUGHT MY COMMENTS TO HIM EARLIER IN THE WEEK HAD CONVINCED HIM OF THE ERROR OF HIS REPORTING AND THAT I WONDERED WHAT MORE I MIGHT SAY TO GET HIM OFF THIS ERRONEOUS NONSENSE.
3. JOE REPLIED THAT HE HAD "CHECKED OUT" MY EARLIER INFORMATION, AND THAT CLEARLY I WAS BEING LIED TO. HE THEN GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING STORY:

(A) AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NSC TO CONSIDER THE  
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MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, YOU, THE VICE PRESIDENT, BRENT SCOWCROFT

AND BOB HARTMAN WERE IN FAVOR OF USING B-52'S AND ARGUED HARD FOR THEIR USE. SCHLESINGER AND RUMSFELD WERE OPPOSED.

(B) AFTER THE NSC MEETING SCHLESINGER RETURNED TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WHERE HE, IN ALLIANCE WITH CLEMENTS "FOR A CHANGE," "ORGANIZED THE HELL OUT OF THE MILITARY." THIS ACCORDING TO KRAFT MEANT THAT SCHLESINGER PUT INTENSE PRESSURE ON THE MILITARY TO OPPOSE THE USE OF B-52'S, INCLUDING HIS THREAT TO WITHDRAW HIS OWN SUPPORT FOR THE B-1 IF THE MILITARY DID NOT FALL IN LINE.

(C) AT THE NEXT NSC MEETING, THE MILITARY OPPOSED THE USE OF B-52'S AND THIS IS WHAT CARRIED THE DAY.

4. THE FACTS OF THIS STORY FROM KRAFT, WHICH HE APPARENTLY DOES NOT INTEND TO USE, ARE NOT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT OUR FRIEND IN DOD IS CLEARLY DOING HIS ABSOLUTE BEST TO STICK IT TO YOU.

5. I HAVE REPORTED THE ABOVE TO BRENT, WHO AGREES WITH ME THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT, BUT ALSO (AS WITH ME) SEES LITTLE THAT EITHER OF US CAN DO ABOUT IT.

6. I AM PREPARED, IF YOU WISH, TO ASK JOE TO HAVE LUNCH WITH ME TOMORROW TO GO OVER EVENTS RELATING TO THE VARIOUS NSC MEETINGS IN MORE DETAIL. FRANKLY, I HAVE MY DOUBTS, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WILL BE USEFUL BECAUSE I THINK HE HAS MADE UP HIS MIND THAT SCHLESINGER IS GIVING HIM THE STRAIGHT STORY.

7. I AWAIT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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